



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ONLINE AT THE LINK BELOW:
<https://bit.ly/2W73MeJ>**



Thursday, July 16, 2020

Attachment: [Video](#)

Present: Chair Patti Giggans, Vice-Chair Lael Rubin, Robert Bonner, James P. Harris, Sean Kennedy, Priscilla Ocen, Xavier Thompson, Casimiro Tolentino, Hernan Vera and Executive Director Brian K. Williams

Absent:

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patti Giggans at 9:01 AM. Chair Giggans welcomed members of the Commission and requested a moment of quiet meditation.

Following the moment of silence, Chair Giggans asked Commissioner Tolentino to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Executive Director Brian Williams took roll. Chair Giggans reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

- Approval of June 18, 2020, meeting minutes

On motion of Commissioner Bonner seconded by Vice-Chair Rubin, there being no objection, the June 18, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

Following the approval of the minutes, Chair Giggans announced that item 2b Discussion regarding Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's efforts to address COVID-19 issues within the jails, would be the first item to be discussed.

2. UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- 2b. Discussion regarding Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (LASD) efforts to address COVID-19 issues within the jails

Chair Giggans stated that the Commission would hear from two members of the community who were recently released from L.A. County jails regarding their experience with COVID-19. Chair Giggans also welcomed Assistant Sheriff Bruce Chase and introduced the lead of the ad hoc committee on COVID-19 Vice-Chair Rubin.

Vice-Chair Rubin briefly described the efforts of the COC to address COVID-19 within L.A. County jails and began the discussion with questions for Assistant Sheriff Chase.

Assistant Sheriff Chase informed the Commission that the LASD was working to address the issues the Civil Brand Commission identified during their visits to L.A. County jail facilities. Assistant Sheriff Chase also highlighted that he did not receive a copy of the Sybil Brand Commission's reports regarding their recent visits to L.A. County jail facilities. Vice-Chair Rubin noted that the Commission would provide copies of the reports to Assistant Sheriff Chase.

Assistant Sheriff Chase discussed the transportation of inmates to L.A. County courts. During the pandemic, LASD has transported more than 50,000 individuals to court for appearances. LASD has taken extra precautions during the transporting of inmates by making extra trips to and from the courts to ensure that buses are only half full. Assistant Sheriff Chase also shared various figures related to COVID-19 within L.A. County jails. As of the date of the meeting, the LASD has had six COVID-19 related deaths.

Following Assistant Sheriff Chase's comments, Chair Giggans welcomed community speaker AB. AB described the conditions within the jail facility he was housed in. The inmates were provided disinfectant spray once a week and would resort to using shampoo to clean their cells. AB also mentioned that during the first days of quarantine, the inmates' temperature was tested daily, but that practice abruptly stopped. AB stated that one of the biggest issues for many inmates was their inability to attend their scheduled court dates.

Following AB's comments, Chair Giggans introduced the second community speaker, YC, who was incarcerated at Men's Central Jail (MCJ). YC noted that the MCJ was very dirty and that inmates were not given cleaning supplies. YC stated that the module next to the module he was housed in was quarantined, but the trustees who provided the food for the quarantine module also provided meals for his module. YC also stated that although he is asthmatic, he did not receive his inhaler as requested until his family intervened to ensure he received it.

Following the two community speakers, Chair Giggans opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Ocen asked both speakers if they were given any information regarding COVID-19 before their release. Both speakers confirmed they were not given any information.

There were twenty-three members of the public who addressed the Commission.

The meeting recessed at 11:21 AM.

Open session reconvened at 11:34 AM. Present were Chair Patti Giggans, Vice-Chair Lael Rubin, Robert Bonner, James P. Harris, Sean Kennedy, Priscilla Ocen,

Xavier Thompson, Casimiro Tolentino, Hernan Vera, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

- 2a. Discussion and update regarding Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Mental Evaluation Team (MET) program and funding

Chair Giggans introduced agenda item 2a, discussion and update regarding Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Mental Evaluation Team (MET) program and funding. Chair Giggans highlighted the MET program as a program that provides crisis assessment, intervention and targeted case management services to diffuse potentially violent situations. MET is a collaborative project between LASD deputies and the Department of Mental Health. Chair Giggans highlighted some of the challenges the MET program faces while striving to provide services that cover the entire geography of L.A. County.

Chair Giggans emphasized that due to the recent budget setbacks, the MET program is one of the programs the LASD is considering cutting. Therefore, Chair Giggans proposed the Commission write a letter to the Board of Supervisors and the LASD reiterating the support for the MET program to stay whole. Chair Giggans opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Ocen highlighted her concern that the LASD receives more money than any other County department by far, as such, Commissioner Ocen proposed that if the Commission's objective was to write a letter regarding emergency response to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, the letter should state funding be directed toward the Department of Mental Health to create their own emergency response team. Otherwise, law enforcement will continue to be the primary responder in those type of instances, which can potentially result in fatal uses of force.

Commissioner Kennedy commented that the issue was not an either-or scenario, as such, the Commission should support high-quality community-based mental health treatment and support fully funding the MET program.

There were twenty-five members of the public who addressed the Commission.

Following public comment on item 2b, Chair Giggans asked Ingrid Williams to call the roll for a vote to write a letter in support of the LASD's MET Program. With two abstentions, the motion to write a letter in support of the LASD's MET Program was approved.

- 2c. Elections for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission

Chair: Lael Rubin (nominated by Commissioner Tolentino, seconded by Commissioner Harris during the previous COC meeting) — Unanimous Vote

Vice-Chair: Hernan Vera was elected by majority vote.

3. COMMISSION UPDATES

Due to time constraints, item 3 was not discussed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Due to time constraints, item 4 was not discussed.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

- Adjournment

Chair Giggans adjourned the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission virtual meeting at 1:11 PM.